

HOUSE BILL No. 4906

June 30, 1987, Introduced by Reps. Hickner, Jacobetti, Sofio, Bartnik, Browne, Randall, Gnodtke, Stallworth, Connors, Muxlow and DeBeaussaert and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

A bill to create a forest and mineral resource development fund and a board to administer the fund and to make certain grants; and to provide for the powers and duties of the board.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 "forest and mineral resource development fund act".

3 Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4 (a) "Board" means the forest and mineral resource develop-
5 ment board created in section 3.

6 (b) "Department" means the department of natural resources.

7 (c) "Director" means the director of the department.

8 (d) "Fund" means the forest and mineral resource development
9 fund created in section 5.

1 (e) "Person" means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock
2 company, university or college, corporation or association, or a
3 governmental unit or agency of a governmental unit.

4 Sec. 3. (1) The forest and mineral resource development
5 fund board is established within the department. The board shall
6 consist of the following members:

7 (a) The director or his or her authorized representative.

8 (b) The chief of the geological survey division.

9 (c) The chief of the forest management division.

10 (d) An individual appointed by the director who is knowl-
11 edgeable in matters pertaining to the mineral industry.

12 (e) An individual appointed by the director who is knowl-
13 edgeable in matters pertaining to the forest industry.

14 (2) The members appointed by the director shall serve for
15 2-year terms and successor members shall be appointed by the
16 director in the same manner and for the same terms as the origi-
17 nal members.

18 (3) Official action of the board shall be by majority vote
19 of all of the board members.

20 (4) The board shall meet immediately upon formation and then
21 shall meet at least quarterly at an office of the department, or
22 at other places in the state as may be designated by the board.

23 (5) The business that the board may perform shall be con-
24 ducted at a public meeting of the board held in compliance with
25 the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976,
26 being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.
27 Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meetings shall

1 be given in the manner required by Act No. 267 of the Public Acts
2 of 1976.

3 Sec. 4. The board shall do all of the following:

4 (a) Administer a grant program pursuant to sections 6 and
5 7.

6 (b) Provide advice and recommendations to the legislature,
7 the governor, and executive departments in order to promote the
8 development of the forestry and forest products industry and the
9 mineral extraction and utilization industry in this state.

10 (c) Develop programs and coordinate existing and proposed
11 programs to encourage innovative and competitively viable eco-
12 nomic development of forest and mineral related industry.

13 (d) Stimulate and encourage the forestry and forest products
14 industry and the mineral extraction and utilization industry
15 through grants made under this act.

16 (e) Review existing laws and regulations pertaining to for-
17 estry and the mineral industry and develop proposals for new laws
18 or changes in existing law to improve this state's forest and
19 mineral resource development as considered appropriate by the
20 board.

21 (f) Promote and provide for educational programs for the
22 general public and members of local government to increase aware-
23 ness of the importance of the forestry and forest products indus-
24 try and the mineral industry to this state.

25 (g) Consult with representatives of science, industry,
26 labor, government, and other groups and utilize the services of

1 public and private organizations, including colleges and
2 universities, as the board considers necessary or helpful.

3 Sec. 5. (1) The forest and mineral resource development
4 fund is created as a separate fund in the department of treasury
5 to be administered and expended by the board for the purpose of
6 making grants pursuant to this section and sections 6 and 7.

7 (2) There shall be annually appropriated from the general
8 fund of the state a sufficient sum to carry out the requirements
9 of this act. Of the money appropriated by the legislature, the
10 board shall make grants as provided in sections 6 and 7 in a
11 manner that as nearly as practicable results in an even distribu-
12 tion of grants to encourage the state's forestry and forest prod-
13 ucts industry and grants to encourage the state's mineral
14 industry.

15 Sec. 6. (1) The board shall establish a forest and mineral
16 resource development grant program.

17 (2) The board shall annually publish information about
18 grants available under this act in a manner selected by the board
19 as best calculated to give notice to persons likely to be inter-
20 ested in the grants.

21 (3) Information regarding grants available under this act
22 and application forms for grants shall be distributed by the
23 board upon request.

24 (4) An application for a grant under this section shall be
25 on a form provided by the board and shall contain information
26 required by the board.

1 (5) The board may make grants to a person for any of the
2 following projects that pertain to new technologies, innovative
3 technologies, or procedures, products, or marketing techniques,
4 to encourage the state's forestry or forest products industry or
5 the mineral extraction and utilization industry:

6 (a) Market development projects.

7 (b) Resource base information development projects.

8 (c) Feasibility study projects.

9 (d) Research projects.

10 (e) Development projects.

11 (f) Research and development projects.

12 (6) The board may require that matching funds be provided as
13 a condition for making a grant under this section.

14 (7) The board in making grants under this section shall con-
15 sider all of the following:

16 (a) The potential for the project, if funded, to assist the
17 forest products industry or the mineral industry in this state.

18 (b) The potential for the project, if funded, to create jobs
19 in the forest products industry or the mineral industry in this
20 state.

21 (c) If the applicant's project proposes the development of a
22 new technology or product, the likelihood that the technology or
23 product would enhance the competitiveness of this state's forest
24 products industry or mineral industry.

25 (d) If the applicant's project involves the development of a
26 new technology or product, whether the applicant provides a
27 feasibility study with results supportive of project initiation.

1 (e) The potential for the project to be applied or utilized
2 by persons in this state other than the applicant.

3 (f) The ability of the applicant to contribute matching
4 funds for the project.

5 (g) If the applicant's project involves research, the like-
6 lihood that the applicant may qualify for further research grants
7 or follow-up grants from other sources.

8 (h) Other factors as considered appropriate by the board.

9 Sec. 7. (1) An application for a grant made under this act
10 shall be reviewed and prioritized by the board each fiscal year.

11 (2) Not less than 60 days prior to the end of each fiscal
12 year, the board shall report the following information regarding
13 the grants made under this act to the governor and the
14 legislature:

15 (a) The name and address of each person to whom a grant was
16 issued during the reporting year.

17 (b) The nature of the project that received a grant during
18 the reporting year.

19 (c) The amount of money received by each person who received
20 a grant during the reporting year.

21 (d) The county in which the project is located.

22 (e) The number of new employment opportunities, if any, that
23 resulted from grants made during the reporting year.

24 (f) The number of new employment opportunities, if any, that
25 are expected to result from grants that are anticipated in the
26 next reporting year.